



# Governor's E-Newsletter



**November 18-24, 2006**

**Aloha and Welcome from the Governor's Office in Hawai`i**  
It is with pleasure we send you this e-newsletter.

## Quote of the Week

*"This is not just any construction project. The impact of this will be huge on real people's lives."*

- Governor Lingle, sharing her thoughts while inspecting the construction site of a new state emergency homeless shelter in Wai`anae.

## Thoughts of the Week

*"It's encouraging to see that state labor and agriculture officials are working on a plan to ease the upheaval for those workers, the majority of whom are well into mid-life."*

- Honolulu Advertiser editorial, **"Plantation shutdown demands swift action,"** praising the state departments of labor and agriculture for their quick actions to help former Del Monte employees.

*"We're here to help. We have a good staff that has dealt with these issues in the past... We're committed to helping them to make sure that they find jobs in their future."*

- Nelson Befitel, director of the Department of Labor and Industrial

## *TOP STORIES THIS WEEK*

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**Governor Lingle tours site of new transitional emergency shelter on Leeward Coast.** Read more [here](#).

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**Governor encourages residents to help Hawai`i's less fortunate at Thanksgiving Day service.** Read [more](#).

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### **Governor Lingle Tours Site of New Transitional Emergency Shelter on Leeward Coast**



**Governor Lingle observed the concrete pour for the foundation of a temporary emergency transitional shelter being built by the State as part of the Lingle-Aiona Administration's efforts to address the homeless**

Relations, sharing the Lingle-Aiona administration's commitment to helping the 551 Del Monte employees who recently lost their jobs.



*"I want to set an example for my child and grandchild. If I change one person's life, I'm doing something."*

- Dr. Noni Koch, volunteer at Next Step Homeless Shelter.

### Upcoming Events

**November 28**, Governor Lingle and Lt. Governor Aiona will attend an open house at the Hawai`i Children's Discovery Center in Kaka`ako.

**November 29**, Governor Lingle will attend the Hawai`i Secondary Student Conference, an event established to help students, grades 7-12, participate in the decision-making process of laws and government.

**November 30**, Governor Lingle will be the keynote speaker at the University of Hawai`i at Manoa Women Leaders Networking Luncheon.

**November 30**, Governor Lingle will join State Librarian Jo Ann Schindler in honoring the State Librarian of the Year.

**December 1**, Governor Lingle will attend the inauguration ceremony for the Honorable Bryan J. Baptiste, Mayor of the County of Kaua`i, and the members

problem on O`ahu's Leeward Coast. "This is not a place where you can come and just flop down," Governor Lingle said. "This is a place you're going to be working on your own set of skills to enable you to become independent from the government." When completed, the shelter will house 300 residents, and provide structured programs and services on site or in near proximity. Last month, the state opened Onelau`ena emergency transitional shelter in Kalaeloa for approximately 200 homeless residents.

### **Governor Encourages Residents to Help Hawai`i's Less Fortunate at Thanksgiving Day Service**



Governor Lingle visited with Rev. David Hironaka and his granddaughter, Sophia, following the service.

"It doesn't matter how much money the government has. Funding cannot replace the passion of the people," Governor Lingle said as she emphasized the importance of helping Hawai`i's homeless during the Thanksgiving Day





worship service at Central Union Church. The Governor also thanked the congregation for serving as advocates for the homeless. Prior to the opening of the Next Step transitional shelter, Central Union and Kawaiahao Churches were at the forefront in taking care of the homeless after their eviction from Ala Moana Park.

- Listen to "[Thanksgiving and the Homeless](#)," by Hawai`i Public Radio.

### **Governor Kicks-Off Season of Giving**



"The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign is important not only for

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Governor Lingle and Salvation Army Major Sharon Hudson (left), Captain Neil Navarro and Major Dave Hudson (right).

the money it collects, but also for the symbol that it projects to other people," Governor Lingle said as she emphasized the importance of giving during the holiday season. The Governor participated in the

Salvation Army's Red Kettle Bell Ringing to raise funds to help Hawaiʻi families in need during the holidays. The Salvation Army provides a variety of services, including: family services, addiction treatment services, family intervention services, adult rehabilitation center, Camp Homelani, family services office, preschool and other children's programs, and adult Day Care and other senior programs.

## Honoring Hawaiʻi's Top Philanthropists



Governor Lingle and Outstanding Philanthropist of the Year, Dr. Lawrence K.W. Tseu.

"The warmth of Hawaiʻi is apparent in the generosity, compassion and aloha spirit of the people," Governor Lingle said as she joined the Association of Fundraising Professionals - Aloha Chapter in honoring Dr. Lawrence K. W. Tseu as Hawaiʻi's Outstanding

Philanthropist of the Year. The Governor congratulated Dr. Tseu for building a successful career as dentist and for his commitment to giving back to local, national, international community. The Association also honored Mitch D'Olier as Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser; Terry Wells as Outstanding Fundraising Professional; Fine Wine Imports as Outstanding Small Business; and Central Pacific Bank as Outstanding Corporation.

## Governor Welcomes Swimmers



## to Pearl City Invitational



Governor Lingle visited with participants from Kona.

Governor Lingle welcomed more than 500 swimmers from around the state to the 27th Annual Pearl City Invitational Swim Meet. The Governor, who swims four days per week, congratulated the students for their participation and

encouraged them to remain committed to aquatic sports. This year, swim meet coordinators announced the event has been renamed as the "Ken Suenaga Pearl City Aquatics Invitational," in honor of Suenaga's 40 years as a coach and efforts to establish pool facilities at Central O`ahu Regional Park.

## Professional Bull Riders Welcomed to Hawai`i by Governor



Governor Lingle and Maui paniolos, Myron Duarte (left) and Bob Chambers (right). Duarte participated in the rodeo.

The Governor welcomed the nation's top bull riders to Hawai`i at the Professional Bull Riders' (PBR) Cheeseburger Island Style All- Star Challenge. The event, the first indoor rodeo in Hawai`i, also featured

Makawao-native, and crowd favorite, Myron Duarte. "Once word gets out, I think you're going to see bigger and bigger crowds," Governor Lingle said. "It's great entertainment." PBR was founded in 1992. Every year, more than 100 million viewers tune in to watch rodeo events.



*Mahalo for your service.*



U.S. Air Force photo/Tech. Sgt. Shane A. Cuomo

Pilots from the 535th Airlift Squadron from Hickam Air Force Base fly their C-17 Globemaster III during a local training mission over the Hawaiian Islands.

**We invite you to submit digital photos of your loved ones who are serving our country in the defense of freedom and liberty around the world. Please e-mail your photos and a brief caption to [governor.lingle@hawaii.gov](mailto:governor.lingle@hawaii.gov).**

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### [Departments of the Week](#)

**[Labor and Industrial Relations and Agriculture](#)**



The 551 Del Monte workers slated to lose their jobs in January have a chance to interview with prospective employers at a job fair to be held Dec. 13 at the company's Kula gym. State officials will also invite employers in the healthcare industry to participate.

#### ASSISTANCE FOR JOB SEEKERS

• **Oahu Work Links.** Services include career counseling, job searching, and job and training referrals. Some job seekers may also be provided English-as-a-second-language training, as well as training in high-demand industries such as healthcare, construction and commercial truck driving. Project participants may also receive out-of-area job search assistance, relocation assistance and other related support services such as childcare, transportation assistance and job-related certifications, uniforms and equipment. **Phone:** 592-0620

Oahu Work Links centers (Open 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays):  
• **Waipahu Civic Center,** 94-275 Mokuola St., Room 300  
**Phone:** 975-0010  
• **Dillingham Shopping Plaza,** 1505 Dillingham Blvd., Room 112  
**Phone:** 943-0733  
• **830 Punchbowl St.,** Room 112  
**Phone:** 586-8700  
Employers interested in participating in the Dec. 13 job fair and others seeking more information may call Norma McDonald of Workforce Development Division Oahu branch at 586-9065 or 586-9066.

## Job fair set for laid-off workers

BY GREG WILES  
AND LYNDIA ARAKAWA  
Advertiser Staff Writers

The state will hold a job fair next month for hundreds of Del Monte Fresh Produce employees, who are set to lose their jobs in January. The job fair, to be held Dec. 13 at Del Monte's Kula gym, will give workers a chance to interview with prospective employers. Some companies have already called inquiring about the workers, said state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations director Nelson Befitel.

"Fortunately we have a very low unemployment rate in Hawaii," Befitel said. "We believe there are enough jobs in the agricultural industry and the tourism industry. We have a lot of people retiring from various state agencies, so we can all invite them to the job fair on Dec. 13 and encourage them to hire these displaced workers."

State officials will also invite employers in the healthcare industry to participate in the job fair.

SEE JOB FAIR, C8

In the wake of Del Monte's decision to end operations in Hawai`i, the state departments of Agriculture and Labor have begun "rapid response" relief efforts for those who lost their jobs.

"We're going to go out there and assess their skills, their job skills and determine what type of training they need, what job placement assistance they need," said Nelson Befitel, director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR).

This week, Befitel and Board of Agriculture Chair Sandra Lee Kunimoto met with Del Monte management and Union officials to discuss a plan of action to assist the 551 affected employees. Over the next week, DLIR's rapid response team will meet with the employees to assess job skills and inform the workers of what types of services are available. The Board of Agriculture will continue to identify agricultural companies in need of employees.

Both agencies are working together to coordinate a special job fair, which will be held December 13.

Kunimoto is also focusing on ensuring 5,000 acres of pineapple land remains in agricultural use. "It's our every expectation

that it will stay as Ag land. As some of these former plantation lands open up, you've seen a wide variety of crops," she said.

## Plantation shutdown demands swift action

When any company shuts its doors and sends hundreds of workers to the unemployment line, it's a shock. But the fact that it's Del Monte hit particularly hard in Hawaii, where growing pineapple has figured so prominently in the history.

The 551 employees of Del Monte Fresh Produce were stunned when the company decided to shut down within two months instead of in 2008, as previously announced. Many had not begun the process of finding new jobs or getting the training needed to gain new skills.

So it's encouraging to see that state labor and agriculture officials are working on a plan to ease the upheaval for those workers, the majority of whom are well into mid-life. That, coupled with the language barrier faced by the more recent immigrants, further handicaps their job-seeking efforts.

In cooperation with the plantation workers' union, the state is planning a Dec. 12 job fair to guide the employees through retraining. Although unemployment is low, this is the only work that many of the field hands know, and the transition is going to be challenging.

An enormous concern at this point will be helping the displaced workers find affordable housing, which is in painfully short supply. Coming up with the right plan, one that buys as much time as possible for the housing hunt, will take negotiating with leaseholder Del Monte and landlord Campbell Estate.

Averting some of the current pitfalls will be difficult. For example, Del Monte began plowing under its current crop, despite offers by another company, Maui Land & Pineapple, to harvest it. Although it is certainly within Del Monte's rights to do so, it's unfortunate, especially because the denuded soil then could pose runoff problems with the approach of the winter rainy season. The state should at least look for ways to mitigate this problem.

And the larger issue — how Hawaii should work to develop sustainable agriculture, on Oahu and the other islands — is something lawmakers must grapple with in January.

For the moment, however, the community needs to pull together and help these pineapple workers through their immediate crisis.

[Plantation shutdown demands swift action](#)

Honolulu  
Advertiser,  
November  
21, 2006



In the News

## Empty park buoys hope for homeless

Niinokuli Beach tent city, families' lives transformed as shelters beckon

BY WILL HOOVER  
*Advertiser Journal Staff Writer*

Homeless advocates are encouraged by recent signs of progress in the effort to connect the specter of legions of people with no place to go who have taken refuge along miles of beaches on the Waianae Coast in the past two years.

A beach park that became the emblem of Hawaii's homeless problem and the site of a tent city for two years is now deserted as families who occupied the park find housing in a new state-run transition shelter in Kalaheo.

Featured in a series by The Advertiser and in other local and national news reports over the summer, a drive past Niinokuli Beach Park today shows an empty, serene plot of park land that until early this month had been the chaotic setting for dozens of tents and makeshift encampments that were home

SEE HOMELESS, A3



See more photos and read our news on homelessness online. Then join the conversation. Post your comments on this story.

HONOLULU ADVERTISER

[Empty park buoys hope for homeless](#)

Honolulu  
Advertiser,  
November  
19, 2006

# Homeless shelter on its way

Letter Chang  
The Garden Island

The island's first general  
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transitional care  
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See Shelter, A1



Michael Garvey received a helping portion of turkey from volunteer Bill Tavares (center) during a Thanksgiving dinner at the New Hope Homeless Shelter in Kaka'ako, where a Thanksgiving feast was served, complete with entertainment.

## Kaukau in Kaka'ako

Residents of a Kaka'ako homeless shelter enjoy a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner

By Robert E. Hines

Continued from page 1

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Kaukau  
in  
Kaka'ako

Honolulu  
Star-  
Bulletin,  
November  
24, 2006





Mayor Mufi Hannemann and Gov. Linda Lingle ring Salvation Army bells yesterday to start off the holiday giving season. Lingle, who wrote downtown and was on his last term, posed a donation in the Salvation Army's red kiosk.

## Charities appeal for donations

Despite healthy state economy, many are still living on the edge

**BY DAN HIGGINS**  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Organizations that rely on charitable contributions during the holidays hope a strong island economy and low unemployment rate will produce generous contributions. But they worry the same factors could

backfire. Hawaii's strong economy — coupled with the lack of a major natural disaster such as Hurricane Katrina that inspired contributions last year — could hobble donors here, leading back this season, the leaders of some organizations say.

The Salvation Army's Honolulu and Pacific Islands division is one of the "red kiosk" network. The division is the Salvation Army's

direct mail campaign are already off to a good start, said Scott Idikawa, spokesman for the group's divisional commander.

"We have a really good record

here, but the flip side is that a lot of people will have to have more jobs to keep up with the cost of living," Idikawa said. "We'll probably underestimate that there's still a lot of need out there."

Even with Hawaii's recording a 12 percent unemployment rate for September, Idikawa said, "There are families that are still paycheck away from bankruptcy. They have enough for the

SEE DONATE, B1

## Airports to get more parking

3,500 new stalls, 5-story facility included in plans for \$2.3B in improvements

**BY MIKE LEIDENHANN**  
Advertiser Staff Writer

The state Transportation Department plans to add nearly 3,500 parking spaces at airports across the state, including building a new five-story, \$79 million structure at Honolulu International Airport, officials said this week.

Construction of the Honolulu facility, with about 3,000 new stalls, could begin next year and be finished within 18 months, said DOT spokesman Scott Idikawa.

"Parking is the No. 1 source of complaints at the airport, and we're going to do something about it," Idikawa said.

The parking improvements, including new stalls in Kona, Hilo and Lihoe, are the first phase of what

SEE AIRPORTS, A2

### INSIDE

Moving walkways, applications deadline: Check out the plan (A2)

Join the conversation. Post your comments on the stories. **at HONOLULU ADVERTISER.COM**

[Governor, Mayor help start giving season](#)

Honolulu Advertiser, November 21, 2006

[Airports to get more parking](#)

Honolulu Advertiser, November 24, 2006

# Jobless rate falls to 2.1%, a U.S. low

National unemployment rate drops to 4.4%; Honolulu now at 1.9%

BY SEAN HAO  
Advertiser Staff Writer

Once again, Hawaii's had the lowest unemployment rate in the nation last month.

Hawaii's jobless rate fell to 2.1 percent in October, marking the third straight month the state has posted the lowest unemployment rate in the nation.

October's rate was down 0.4 percentage point from September's seasonally adjusted 2.5 percent rate, the state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations said yesterday. In comparison, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped to 4.4 percent in October compared with 4.6 percent in September. The jobs data are adjusted to compensate for seasonal factors, such as holidays, that could skew year-over-year comparisons.

Hawaii's monthly seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been below 3 percent for nine of the last 12 months. Economists expect state economic growth to slow this year. However, the low unemployment rate shows that Hawaii's economy remains on strong footing, helped by a robust real-estate market and a stable tourism sector.

Despite the dip in the unemployment rate, which is derived from a survey of households, a separate survey of businesses showed a net decline of 2,400

SEE JOBLESS, C8

[Jobless rate falls to 2.1%, a U.S. low](#)

Honolulu Advertiser,  
November 22, 2006

## A taste of Hawai'i before heading home

AM/4/4A

Both presidents volunteer around to island women during 10-hour engagement



BY ANN COTLER  
HONOLULU TIMES  
Advertiser Staff Writer

President Bush shared a little mother volunterism, shared with his military commander in the Pacific and got a surprise one in Honolulu yesterday on a 10-hour engagement to visit before Bush leaves for Africa.

"I've been a volunteer since I was always around," said Vice President Cheney, who is taking the President's volunteer service a step from Bush's when he arrived at Hickam Air Force Base at 4:15 a.m.

The public appearances were scheduled for Bush to be seen, which began by the morning. Bush is scheduled to leave tonight at 10:30 a.m. for his 10-hour engagement to visit before Bush leaves for Africa. Cheney is scheduled to leave tonight at 10:30 a.m. for his 10-hour engagement to visit before Bush leaves for Africa.

**PRESIDENTIAL TRAFFIC**

President Bush is expected to visit Camp Smith and Pearl Harbor. The morning traffic is expected to be affected and parking is expected to be a problem. The morning traffic is expected to be affected and parking is expected to be a problem.

**WIRE COVERAGE**

Both presidents volunteer around to island women during 10-hour engagement

[A taste of Hawai'i before heading home](#)

Honolulu Advertiser,  
November 21, 2006











